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VOL. I.    RENSSELAER, (Collegeville P. O.) IND., NOVEMBER, 1894.    NO. 1.

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### Dedicatory Ode.

BY JAS. B. FITZPATRICK.

TO-DAY a messenger appears,  
Fresh from the scenes of joyful glee,  
One which for many, many years,  
We longingly desire to see.

It comes from a most pleasant place,  
A home endeared to every heart.  
There radiant beams of learning gaze,  
To us their warmth and light impart.

In this our loving college home  
Columbians boast of closer union,  
To-day our courier first does roam  
To tell the world of our communion.

Then from this dear retreat of ours,  
Go forth thou bird of our delight,  
And cant the world for hours and hours,  
What here we shall presume to write.

Go tell the world that thou dost bring,  
The fruits of youthful work and toil;  
May honor to thy flight then cling,  
With earned success thy sweetest spoil.

What more may we expect to know,  
Though time our future does conceal,  
Than this: God has ordained it so,  
To help man's weakness for his zeal.

The help of God we now do ask,  
Full confident in our belief  
That He will bless our pleasant task,  
And stamp success on every leaf.

Then take thy place in honor's hall  
Beside those there already crowned;  
There, when thy name they needs must call,  
Respond and lo! come back renowned.

### Collegeville, and St. Joseph's College.

COLLEGEVILLE, as its name indicates,  
is an educational center, and the seat of  
two thriving institutions of learning, St. Joseph's College, and St. Joseph's Indian Normal School.

The Normal School and College are both under the direction of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood. The grounds on which the latter institution is located were given to the Community of the Most Precious Blood by Rt. Rev. Dr. Dwenger, late Bishop of Ft. Wayne, and comprise three hundred acres of land. These grounds are immediately south of Rensselaer, bordering on the corporation line.

Taking the public highway leading south from Rensselaer, and known as the College Road, one travels about half a mile until he reaches Collegeville. To his left, back of a beautiful grove, is the Indian Normal School, and to his right, the largest and most imposing edifice in northwestern Indiana, St. Joseph's College. If he be a stranger, coming to the place for the first time, he will instinctively stop to admire the charming surroundings; the enticing grove, the inviting play grounds near by, the placid lake, and finally the college building, which, situated on a natural elevation that rises abruptly from the lake, is by far the most prominent object in all the surrounding country.

While approaching the College he may ob-



tain a good exterior view of this stately pile. Its length is two hundred and twenty-eight feet and its average width sixty. The height, including basement and attic, is five stories. Isolated as it is from other large buildings, its gigantic proportions leave a strong impression on the mind. Not only does it claim admiration on account of its size but also for the architectural harmony of its structure.

There are two entrances on the front, and over in a niche near the top of the building, are two large handsome statues; the one over the south, that of St. Joseph, and the other, over the north, that of the Blessed Virgin.

Entering the building, at the north entrance the first place that will claim attention is the study hall. It occupies the northern part of the first floor, thirty-six feet wide, and its length extends across the entire width of the building, a distance of seventy feet. Windows are on three sides, thus furnishing it with an abundance of light and good facilities for ventilation. A large corridor extends through the building from the study hall on the north to the sisters' apartments on the south. The class rooms, six in number, are on the west side of this corridor. On the east are the reception rooms, the parish rector's room, priests recreation room, post office and students' supply store.—From this corridor three flights of stairs lead to the second floor. On this floor is the chapel, occupying the northern part, immediately over the study hall. It is well to remain here a few moments.

This is truly the sanctum sanctorum. It is, as becomes a Catholic college, decorated more beautifully and richly than any apartment in the building. The frescoing and decorating was done under the supervision of Rev. Prof. Paulinus Trost, and all the paintings are the works of his own hand. To form an idea of the beauty of this chapel any one who is acquainted with the Rev. Father's skill as an artist needs only be told that here are to be found the best efforts of his genius; while the stranger entering here is instantly impressed with the magnificence of his surroundings, and recognizes at once the work

of a master. Wherever he looks his eyes fall upon some object calculated to raise his thoughts to heaven. In the sanctuary are three altars, in the center the large or main altar, and on the sides St. Joseph's and the Blessed Virgin's. Just outside the sanctuary rail to the left is the altar of the Holy Family, which was placed in the chapel last May; a noteworthy feature of which is the large painting of the Holy Family. It is fixed in the central framework and reaches from the tabernacle almost to the ceiling.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is usually being offered at these altars from 5 to 6:30 A. M. daily, as there are nine Rev. Professors in the College, each of whom begins the day by offering the Holy Sacrifice. The Blessed Sacrament constantly remains in the tabernacle of the main altar, before which the sanctuary lamp continually burns.

On the chapel walls hang the stations, and on the ceiling are four large paintings artistically arranged, representing the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and other saints. The design of the picture of St. Joseph is especially striking. It represents our saint as shielding the College with his outstretched hands, his face turned to heaven in prayer. Considering the many graces and blessings which have come to our College, we have every reason to believe that our glorious patron constantly watches over us and has obtained from the Almighty favors which have been bestowed upon us in the past, and which continue to shower upon us from matin orison to vesper chant.

Leaving the chapel we find a corridor leading from it to the large study hall which occupies the southern part of the second floor and is set apart for the religious students. On the other side of this corridor are the apartments of the Reverend College Professors, two music rooms, the College library, infirmary, and Columbian Hall. This latter room, thirty-five feet long and twenty broad, has been set apart for the exclusive use of the Columbian Society. In this they hold their meetings, and spend whatever portion of their time they can spare from studies and recrea-

tion in the reading of some of the many books, magazines and newspapers found in their well stocked library. Many beautiful paintings adorn the walls and add much to the attractiveness of the room, thus helping to make it what it is, a place of rest and enjoyment to the hardworking Columbians.

Coming to the third floor the first thing that attracts attention is the public exhibition hall or "College Auditorium". It occupies the entire northern part of the floor, has been newly painted and vies with the College chapel in the richness and beauty of its decorations. The stage especially is equipped with an abundance of scene paintings, the work of Rev. Prof. Trost, which have been made to harmonize with the public dramatic entertainments given in the hall, and have done much toward securing for them the success which they attained.

The dormitories, five in number, are also on this floor. They are large, well ventilated, healthy, rooms and furnished with comfortable beds.

On the fourth floor are the trunk rooms, clothes closets; and storage rooms.

Although we have not yet invited the attention of the visitor to the basement, it nevertheless claims a great deal of the students attention for there are located the dining rooms, kitchen, armory, bath-rooms and barber shop. The armory occupies the northern portion of the basement, the kitchen the southern; they are connected by a corridor, on each side of which are the dining rooms or refectories, as they are more commonly called. The tables are always well supplied with an abundance of good, wholesome food, well prepared by the careful Sisters. The greater part of the bread, meat, butter, milk and vegetables, very important items for a boarding house, are produced on the College farm, at the least possible cost, thus enabling the faculty to furnish good board to the students with little expense.

It will now be seen that practically there

are five floors in the College, which means that there is within this building a floor space of sixty-eight thousand four hundred square feet or nearly two acres. The entire building is heated by steam, furnished with fire escapes, well lighted, and fitted with all the improvements which can in any way add to the welfare or comfort of its inmates.

Besides the College itself there are many surrounding buildings worthy of attention, especially the handsome and commodious brother house which has just been completed, the laundry, engine and boiler house, and and many other useful buildings.

The scenery of Collegeville and the surrounding country is hard to surpass. On the east, west, and north winds the picturesque Iroquois, about a mile and a half distant in each direction. Its banks are lined with beautiful forests. Here, on holidays the students love to roam and enjoy themselves, each one according to his own fancy, forgetful of the troubles and cares of college life, and as free from restraint as the Red Chiefs of the Iroquois.

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### History of the Columbian Literary Society.

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BY WM. D. SULLIVAN.

THE first steps towards the organization of the Columbian Literary Society were taken soon after the commencement of the Scholastic year of 1892—93, when a petition bearing the signatures of nearly all the more advanced students, was submitted to the Faculty, requesting from them "permission to form an association for the promotion of the oratory and literature of such students as are hereafter mentioned, and any who may desire admittance into said association."

The promptness with which the request was granted, and the lively interest shown by the Rev. Fathers was so encouraging, that a committee was at once appointed to draft a constitution, which after being approved by the Faculty, was formally adopted on October 21th, Columbus Day.



The Faculty with its approval of the constitution, had appointed Rev. Benedict Boebner as Spiritual Director of the Society, and the election which followed the signing of the constitution by the charter members, resulted in the election of Jas. B. Fitzpatrick, whose chirography was recognizable in the body of the petition, as the Society's first president. The other officers and charter members were: Fr. H. Dirksen Vice-president, Thos. M. Conroy Secretary, Leo. J. Gross Treasurer, H. F. Droesch Critic, Jno. J. Woulfe Marshall, Jno. F. Cogan, E. R. Betz, Edw. Gilmartin Executive Committeemen, Jas. B. McKenry, Edw. J. Mungovan, Wm. D. Sullivan. As most of the Rev. Fathers had gone to Chicago to be present at the dedication of the Worlds Fair Buildings, the first program prepared sometime before for Columbus Day, was deferred until the 22nd, when the Society made its debut, the exercises taking place at the front of the College, on the stone steps under the statue of St. Joseph.

From that time, programs consisting of essays, debates, declamations and occasionally a piece of vocal music, were given in the study-hall at periods of every fortnight, and on St. Joseph's Day, "The Wanderer", a melo drama, and two farces, one of them a production of Mr. Conroy's, were played from a temporary stage erected in the larger study-hall.

It was about this time too, that the "Columbian," a paper made up of essays, local items, and humorous contributions from the members of the Society, was read at the programs by the editor whose office has since been made a constitutional one.

As the Society grew larger, the necessity for better order during the meetings became apparent, so a class in parliamentary law was commenced with Mr. Cogan as instructor and Robert's Rules of Order as the standard authority.

Under such a competent teacher, the Columbians soon made themselves acquainted with the ordinary usages of deliberative bodies, and they now enjoy a hearty laugh whenever

they recall to mind the manner in which the business of their first meetings was transacted.

And the Rev. Superiors of the College did not undervalue the Society as a factor in the education of its students, for at the commencement of the last scholastic year, the Rev. Spiritual Director presented the names of ten of the religious students or scholastics of the Precious Blood, as applicants for membership, and a little later on, twelve more names were presented by him for admission into the Society. The Columbian Room, which had been prepared during the summer months as a library and reading-room for the Columbians, was placed at their disposal at about the same time, and soon after the spacious entertainment hall in the annex to the College was equipped with scenery in order to afford them every facility for the presentation of plays and other public entertainments.

"Sebastian," the first play given under the auspices of the Society, was so well received at the night of its presentation, Dec. 10th, that it was reproduced at Rensselaer and again at Remington, meeting at both places with great success.

Encouraged by their first efforts, the Columbians played a second drama, Major John Andre, on May 22nd, on the occasion of the Military Day exercises of the Seifert Light Guards, and reproduced it at Rensselaer, where it received even a greater ovation than had "Sebastian."

The year just commenced promises to be a very auspicious one for the Society. The roll-call shows nearly forty names and applications for membership are being made at every meeting; the shelves of the library are being filled with good books, and the tables are covered with some of the best magazines and periodicals in the country; the parliamentary law class has been commenced anew; the ordinary programs will be raised to a higher standard, and a like attempt will be made with all plays which the Society may decide to give. Father Benedict, who since the organization of the So-

ciety, has been its Spritual Director and a valuable assistant in all its undertakings, having been made superior of the religious students of the house, it was thought best by the Faculty to relieve him of his duties in the Society. On this account he resigned his charge in the beginning of the year, with the best wishes and hearty thanks of every member of the Society, giving way to Rev. Maximilian Walz, who, like Father Benedict, has made the Society his debtor in many ways, and who will, without doubt, carry on the good work begun by his predecessor. The successors of Mr. Fitzpatrick to the presidency were Mr. Dirksen, Mr. Mungovan and Mr. Conroy, the present incumbent. Of the COLLEGIAN, the organ of the Society, nothing can be said here: this is but its first issue; the reader must judge it for himself.

### Inaugural Address.

BY J. M. CONROY.

REV. FATHERS, Fellow Columbians,  
and Dear Friends:

The partiality of the Executive Committee induced them to ask me to defer my inaugural to this occasion. I wish I were competent, but then I make no apology, for it gives me great pleasure to face an audience that gathers here to honor the great navigator, but above all to commemorate a great event, namely the founding of the Columbian Literary Society.

Amid the galaxy of geniuses which the world owes honor, no person holds a more distinguished place than does the discoverer of this land—Christopher Columbus.

Four hundred and two years have posted themselves into oblivion since the consummation of that glorious event, but how much has not the significance then attached to that undertaking augmented, when we consider the result and the theories broached as to the result. To-day we see America in all her grandeur; the people of the fifteenth century saw it only in theory. Genius was required to make the theory a fact, and you all full well know that Columbus possessed that

genius, but consummation was not in the van.

The mind of the great navigator was racked by the deepest study, and the only vista that loomed up before it was satire, despair and rebuff. Such was the vista that the world conceived, but Columbus added another feature—namely, that of perseverance. He was the first American, a real American, for he exercised the greatest of American traits by rising equal to the occasion. He effected a masterly exploit in braving the dangers of an unknown sea, and a complete coup d'etat to the learned world, counting their satires as naught and carrying his original designs to the end. They deprived him of the joy which the contemplation of his plans afforded him, but they could not deprive him of a quality given him by Almighty God—namely, free will in forming his plans. Hence, America may be said to have been born in the free will of Columbus.

This is preeminently a land where no restraint can be laid upon the free will of man, so long as the realization of his thoughts possesses no tendency to conflict with the lawful authority; it is a land where a new people have exercised their prowess and where the "survival of the fittest" of European thought has been favorably realized; in short, it is a land where more has been accomplished in four hundred years than in any country during the whole term of its existence. This is why we rejoice. But still more.

We rejoice, in the fulness of the term, not so much because America was discovered, but because Columbus gave to the world a memorable example of that perseverance which is ascribed only to men of a typical nature; and because he was a man of our faith.

He exercised that faith to which a great and grand impetus was given by our Lord himself nineteen hundred years ago. Columbus found solace in and derived inspiration from that faith which is the butt of hatred and calumny, and which is said to retard the progress of everything—even of education itself. But on this especial day we glory



in saying: Behold a splendid refutation of this charge! These are reasons of our joy. This is why our minds and hearts lend significance to the refrain, "Hail Columbus!"

It is now four hundred years, since Columbus executed that grand project. The intervening period has been remarkable for radical happenings. Numerous wars and unheard-of projections have marked it; famine has left its melancholy trace across it; powerful empires have crumbled to dust, and new ones have risen in their stead; persecution has not been wanting to religion; countries have adopted new beliefs, and made Herculean efforts to extirpate the old; history attests the fact that the greatest of modern generals, at whose frown Europe trembled as at a God's, dictated laws at will, deluged Europe with blood, and died a broken-hearted exile in a strange land; even in our day, we see enormous standing armies frittering away their time in shreds, waiting for the least sign on which to act and grapple for supremacy. That is the history of four hundred years delineated in terrible but true lines.

Anent all this the world has reaped the laurels of progress, for we have heard only one side, while consistency requires two. Amid all the calamities which have befallen the world, she has shown consummate prudence in meeting them, and abided by the issue with a courage truly remarkable.

During these years, many religious orders and communities were founded, and to this we can ascribe much of the progress that has advanced with unfaltering step.

From their ranks have come great men, who have risen to distinction and honor in their respective lines, but retaining that humble spirit with which Catholicity has imbued them, thereby giving to the world the result of their labors, at the same time showing that distinction is not estranged to humility; inventive genius has not been wanting; science and art have received enduring impulses; literature has made heroic attempts to soar the empyrean of perfection; emancipation has given people the right to worship

as they desire. These years have also witnessed the calling together of one of the great councils of the church—the Vatican—to utter its warning cry against the prevailing infidelity, and to put the capping stone on the edifice of church unity by the definition of the infallibility of the Pope. And who can estimate the boon this has conferred upon us? In all our dealings we are assured of an infallible guide who has received his authority from God, the author of all. The last remnant of barbarity has ceased to exist in our fair land. After a stupendous conflict which would have shaken any other nation to its foundation, a revolution, which bid the shackles fall from the limbs of 4,000,000 bondsmen and clothed them with the rights of manhood and equal citizenship, has been accomplished. Blood was required, for a principle was at stake. At times the issue seemed doubtful, but right and principle triumphed, and to-day scarce a vestige of the fierce conflict remains. Ours is a highly favored land. Peace and prosperity shine on us as of yore, and we still offer a welcome to all.

Education claims special acknowledgement for having advanced with amazing rapidity. In general, it has shed a beneficial influence; but when exerted in another direction, it has been productive of contrary results. Bold men have not hesitated to use it as a channel into which to infuse their wild and reckless theories. The youth of the time grasped upon them, and as they have advanced in age, they have clung to these theories with remarkable tenacity. Even some of the governments of Europe have clasped the wretched communists to their bosoms and are now reaping the dire results. This is only one of the many proofs that can be adduced from History, to prove that Education without Religion is a mere farce. It has been proven in many ways that Education must be linked to religion.

God, in the Garden of Paradise, set down certain rules to be observed by Adam and Eve. They did not learn their duty by intuition. No, God, in describing them their duty,



was their educator. He gave them knowledge but was not actuated by anything of a compulsory nature; for as against God, man has no rights, only duties; and for everything which we receive from his hands, he demands retribution. How could Adam and Eve exercise a retributive office in a better way than by word and example?

That knowledge which they received had a direct bearing on their eternal end. Explicit instructions were given them as how to carry out his commands. The chief among this code was that they save their souls. Hence God subordinated education to Religion using it as a means to distribute and preserve his law. This was education relating solely to Christianity, but this is not insinuating that we must reject every species of education that does not in some way or other relate directly to religion.

It is true, the immediate followers of Adam and Eve preserved the law of God intact, and that it lived as a tradition which was uppermost with them and which they exemplified in their daily lives. This was education by example, but time, as we are told, is a great innovator, and his innovations have increased and multiplied wonderfully. Now it was impossible for this tradition to live always as a tradition. It was a necessity that means should be devised commensurate with the need of preserving it. It would soon have obtained a different significance among different people, were it not for the branches of education. Education brushed away the accumulating clouds of error; it preserved it from entering that chaos which is the pit of aimless theories; in fact it would have been impossible for the law to be handed down to us, if it did not find education a ready means of conveyance. From this again, we must not infer that education is superior to religion. Education is required to know and attain our end, as we said above, and to preserve that knowledge, we must educate ourselves and build fountains of knowledge at which future generations may drink.

We know there is a God—for nature tells us that—and God tell us that our end is not

of this world. Moreover we are told that justice will be meted out to all, and that the matter of saving our souls is not discretionary. We must be Christian and we must be educated.

In profane history we read of great men, good emperors and other things of a corresponding nature. Especially does the early history of Rome bear witness of men who rose above men of ordinary nature and displaying their prudence on the throne and in the field alike. They have illumined their paths to glory by actions which at first sight conciliate our favor, and which dilute, to a certain extent, the repulsiveness which their ambition excites. Ambition has many faults allied to it, but some are excusable. But how often in reading the history of these men, especially of the Roman emperors, would we not draw a close before entering upon their private lives? But we cannot. It has been effected in the past. We cannot change it; "Not Heaven itself upon the past has power!"

Probe still farther; to examine their private lives, to throw light on their passions and their virtues will not have redeeming features, which will justify us in giving them the appellation of great men.

All this we can attribute to Paganism. Its brightest jewels suffer greatly from comparison with any one who has the least semblance of true virtue. But, still, this is only natural, for Paganism educated men for this world, leaving them to pander to their evil inclinations at will. It easily fastened its vice-like grasp upon men by its endearing charms and lofty promises, developing and quickening the brain, but leaving the heart a barren waste. The results have been grand, it is true, in one way; but, architecture may have found expression in stately edifices; literature may have received enduring impulses; commerce may have been at the height of its glory; war may have been brought to the perfection of an art; genius may have been everywhere displayed; but what is all this when it does not tend to advance man towards his eternal goal. That knowledge of

good and evil which God imparted to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Paradise, found no living representative among its votaries. With them it was a myth, and the sequel will tell the result. That knowledge has braved the dangers of many storms, even time itself, on account of Christian education. Their wordly deeds have endured: we admire the tact with which they were executed; the persons we place in the pillory of execration. This is Paganism and education without religion, depicted in its brightest hue. Education is an art, and we read:

"Art is true art, when art to God is true,  
And only then."

History tells us that the Catholic Church has been the uncompromising advocate of an education blended with religion, and her tenor to-day, speaking in regard to the matter, plainly tells that she has remained so. She has been a prominent factor in stemming the tide of infidelity which has poured over the world, leaving ruin and desolation in its wake. Was it not John Sobieski, the gallant and Catholic king of Poland, who hurled with a mighty hand the devastating hordes that were seeking to engulf whole Europe with their pernicious belief? The wailings of Europe struck a responsive chord in his heart, and he hurried to the front. He premised the utter ruin and desolation that would result, if these hordes were allowed to roam the soil of Europe at will, at the time, understanding that Christianity and civilization must needs be preserved at all hazards. And he was a Catholic, and brought up under Catholic guidance.

The Catholic church has regarded with a favorable eye everything that tends to advance education. Among the grandest promoters are societies. In this nineteenth century of ours, nothing engages the attention of people more than does the formation of societies, in order to gain a desired point—for in unity there is strength. Alliances are formed between nations that encroachments may the more effectually be repelled, and the well-being of all sustained. This brings us to the cause, in main, that has gathered us here to-night.

Joy fills our hearts, because two years ago thirteen members, of this College united to form a society. Their efforts were crowned with success. They founded a society that still binds us, and that has shed a mighty influence; a society that has maintained her prestige under all circumstances; one that has given her votaries power to meet the difficulties of college life, and the vicissitudes that may beset their path in after-life; they founded a society that signifies everything that is grand, great and noble—they founded the Columbian Literary Society, and to-night under her banners, we rejoice. This joy is universal. You, the Rev. Faculty, rejoice, because you behold part of your work accomplished and crowned by the comparatively insignificant celebration of this evening; because you know that the spirit which planned and executed noble deeds in the past, survives in the members of this society, and that here are found heads to conceive and hands to execute and hearts to love the glorious work that shall tell future students of this grand College, that in the very beginning noble work was done. You, fellow-students rejoice, because you see that College, whose welfare you have at heart, advancing to distinction; and you, fellow Columbians, I well know what a flood of joy inundates your hearts to-night as you see your society traveling the road of success. You have but to cast a glance upon the past and the trophies of victory which you possess, and you will feel well paid for your labors. Work was required, it is true, but the Poet has rightly said:

"The best and sweetest by far  
Are toil created gains."

Dear Friends: It is not my purpose to dwell upon the merits of this society, nor do I deem it expedient, for you all have been witnesses of the passing events; you have noticed what great influence she has exercised; you know the stamina she has infused into her members. Her record is open to view, resplendent and shining. It is studded with golden victories that bring to our memories the thought of labor that was so sweet. Every-



thing tends to show what good-will with perseverance can do.

Fellow Columbians:—Let us take counsel from the past. A great future greets us. Continue the good work, and we have reason to believe that the future will regard us with favorable eye, for

“We hear

A trumpet in the distance, pealing news  
Of better, and Hope, a poising eagle, burns  
Above the unrisen morrow.”

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### PROSPECTUS.

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THE friends and patrons of St. Joseph's College have repeatedly urged, that so large and important an educational institution should publish a College Journal. The standard of literary excellence attained by the members of the Columbian Literary Society and the advantages resulting from a work of the kind, seemed to justify the step of acceding to the wishes of the patrons and the students and to inaugurate a paper, which would represent the best talent in the various departments. The members of the Faculty of the College have always appreciated the benefits accruing from the publication of a paper by the C. L. S. known as the “Columbian Journal,” which was of a private nature and was read at the regular meetings of the C. L. S. The time, however, seems to have come, to venture beyond the manuscript issue; hence the institution of a regular monthly Journal to be known as ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGIAN, the initial number of which opens with an article on Collegeville, whence it hails. The Collegian will be edited by the C. L. S., and will follow in the usual line pursued in College Journals, representing work of general interest from all the departments. The design of the Journal is to promote the advancement of all that is good and noble in the heart of every student of St. Joseph's College: to elevate their standard of literary taste, and to serve as an incentive to earnest and persevering labors in all that pertains to a thorough Catholic education. As regards subscribers, the COLLEGIAN will give parents, friends and patrons an idea

of the practical work accomplished at St. Joseph's College, and will be a bond between old students and their Alma Mater. Our enterprise is lovingly placed under the protection of St. Joseph, the Foster-father of our Lord, in whose hands is left all hope of success.

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### COLLEGE JOURNALS.

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In many of our Catholic colleges are published journals or papers, which we think should receive encouragement and support. It is often the first step of a young man or woman towards literary eminence, and many editors of college papers rise to the higher eminence of author or editor of our great dailies. There was, a few years ago, and probably is yet, a bit of news going the rounds of college papers which said: “The first college paper in this country was published at Harvard and Daniel Webster was its first editor.” This was so oft repeated that it was in fear and trembling that we opened a college paper, lest we should be confronted with this bit of news, but it served to show that college editors do rise to higher things. It is our purpose to make mention of these papers as they reach us, praising when praise is due, criticizing when we think it is needed.—Catholic World.

The fashion to-day is to extol physical science. Of a truth, physical science does not hold, and should not hold, the first place. If man were only matter, it might and should; but he has a soul, and the spiritual and intellectual world is his proper sphere. Scientific knowledge is useful for the arts that serve to make commerce prosper, and should be sought after; but to make commerce and what pertains to it, and the material comforts of man, the main object of his thoughts and aims is a monstrous disorder.—Bishop Chatard.

It is shocking, in view of the fact that we might all be gentle and patient and decent, if we would, to reflect how few of us are so, simply because we will not.

## The Blessing of the Statue of the Blessed Virgin.

BY JAS. B. FITZPATRICK.

"Maiden Mother, meek and mild,  
Take, oh take me for thy child.  
All my life, oh, let it be  
My best joy to think of thee."

Such, indeed, were the sentiments of all who were present when Rt. Rev. Jos. Rade-macher, D. D., pronounced the words of benediction over the image of our spotless mother.

There, already placed in the niche of the North tower, stood the Statue of Mary. From her lofty eminence, the protecting attitude and inviting appearance fill all with an order of sublimity, better known to the inmost heart than either the pen of description can record, or the traditionary depictions of the human mind are able to confirm. With outstretched arms she bids a cordial welcome to all who would enter her fold. From her title "Sedes apientiae," she is most appropriately chosen as the special Protectress of this Institution. It was for this purpose, to publicly proclaim her the Patroness of our College home, that the solemn and impressive services of Sept. 26th were held.

Promptly at 8 A. M. the students assembled at the College entrance, where a large number of Rensselaer's Catholic citizens had already gathered. Shortly afterwards a long procession of acolytes, followed by the Rev. Fathers and His Lordship Rt. Rev. Jos. Rade-macher, D. D., wended their way to the foot of Mary's shrine. The services began with a solemn intonation of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. This caused every head to bow, and raised every mind in holy contemplation, while the emotions of the heart are best portrayed in the words of that lovely hymn:

"Raise thy voice for us to Jesus,  
On this blessed day of thine.  
Raise thy pure hands to bless us,  
As we linger round thy shrine."

Truly it was an imposing scene to behold so many responding to the prayers of benediction, and it is a consoling thought to know

that many of them had the happiness, a few days later, to affiliate themselves with the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin.

Immediately after the Prayer of Benediction, the Episcopal Blessing was given, and then the Rt. Rev. Bishop delivered a sermon at once eloquent and instructive. He dwelled at length upon the propriety of the Catholic Church in possessing such valuable means of devotion, from which accrue so many benefits.

"As in the world," he said, "if a man of great repute, one endeared to the masses of the people by the loyalty he has displayed toward his country, one whose patriotism still re-echoes in the hearts of his countrymen, they would do honor to his memory by placing his picture in their parks, and his likeness would adorn their boulevards; thus the Church, without deviating from her path of rectitude, places before us a visible representation of Jesus Christ, of our Blessed mother, and of the Saints, in order to incite us to devotion and awaken a religious ardor within us."

With this the services closed; but the memory of this happy occasion will be ever fresh in the minds of the students of St. Joseph's College.

## A Brief Sketch of St. Joseph's College Battalion.

BY LAW. A. EBERLE.

THIS organization was founded in November 1892, when a number of students assembled and petitioned the faculty to forward them a sufficient sum of money to procure all necessary articles to begin a regular course in military tactics. The faculty, seeing the many advantages which would naturally accrue from such a society, responded favorably and encouraged the enthusiasts to proceed with their well selected task. Its first membership being about thirty, the society was enabled to form a company with five commissioned and two non-commissioned officers at their head. Under the able guidance of these officers and the assistance of the Rev. Chaplain Benedict



Boebner the organization has, in spite of the many obstacles which were continually thrown in the way, made considerable progress and is now in a very flourishing condition. Space for drilling being at that time very scarce in the main building, the small building south of the College, now used as a laundry, was chosen as the armory. Here the first series of drills were conducted and many were the honors which were now in this armory. Every Tuesday and Friday at the afternoon recess a long line of students could be seen going to the armory to swing the musket.

The manual of arms, the bayonet exercise, and the rudiments of marching, comprised the first years' undertaking; at the end of which a competition drill for officers took place to fill the vacancies which might occur the ensuing year. Persons skilled in military science were selected as judges. The report of these judges was very satisfactory, not one recruit making less than 98%. The officers, upon whom the first year's success depended and who are to be congratulated for their noble work, were as follows:

Chaplain, Rev. Benedict Boebner.  
Major, Mr. J. F. Cogan.  
Adjutant, Mr. T. M. Conroy.  
Captain, Mr. L. A. Eberle.  
1st Lieut. Mr. J. J. Betsner.  
2nd Lieut. Mr. Leo. J. Gross.  
1st Sergeant, Mr. Henry J. Gerard.  
2nd Sergeant, Mr. J. B. Fitzpatrick.

But before long these officers once more petitioned the faculty for a favor. Armed with the courage of their past success, they kindly asked them to set a day apart, which should be spent in competitive drills, dress parades, exhibition drills, etc. This favor being readily granted they at once assembled in the armory to discuss the matter. It was, however, thought best to defer the celebration until the following year. The day is called "Military Day."

The second year's class comprised about thirty-five members, all of whom seemed interested in the art of war. In the addition which was being built to the College at this

time, a large hall was reserved as an armory. On the 2nd of October 1893, the whole military, with the American flag and the military band at their head, marched from the old armory, with all their possessions, to dedicate the new hall. After the regular military ceremonies which generally accompany such a celebration, the boys all enjoyed a free day. The armory which is still used by the present battalion, is about 70 ft. in length and 50 ft. in width and serves admirably well for drill purposes.

Several of the former officers having entered upon their career during vacation promotions had to be made. These were taken, as before mentioned, from among those making the highest grade in the competitive drill the previous year. A sample of the orders, published to the effect of these promotions, is as follows,

Headquarters  
St. Joseph's College Battalion, }  
Oct. 6. 1893.

Special Order No. 5.

Private——— is hereby promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant of Co. A. vice  
———resigned.

J. F. Cogan  
Major.  
T. M. Conroy  
Adj.

The year 1893—94 was marked with unexpected success. The celebration of the long cherished Military Day, on the 25th of May, crowned the labors of this year. The first sound of the dormitory gong brought all to the study hall in due time to offer a fervent morning prayer, asking God's blessing upon the day. At 8 o'clock A. M. a solemn military mass was sung. Under the stars and stripes during the deep roll of the drum, the sacred Host was elevated; while the Seifert Light Guards, kneeling with uncovered heads, adored, before them on the altar, Jesus crucified. The Chaplain, Rev. Benedict Boebner, was celebrant, Rev. Chas. Guendling, of Ft. Wayne, assisted as deacon and Rev. John Guendling of Lafayette as sub-deacon. Rev. John Dinnen of

Crawfordsville, now promoted as pastor of St. Mary's, Lafayette, Ind., acted as master of ceremonies. After mass a twenty foot flag was blessed and, amid the firing of salutes and loud cheering, the stars and stripes were hoisted over St. Joseph's College. Then followed a masterly oration on patriotism, by Rev. H. Meissner, of Peru, Ind. A concert by the band, competitive and exhibition drills, etc., occupied the remainder of the day. Thus closed the first celebration of Military Day and the second year's drill class, in the midst of many of the former members, to whom invitations had been sent, and about twenty-five distinguished clergymen with our beloved Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jos. Rademacher of Ft. Wayne.

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### LOCAL ITEMS.

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The nutting season, which afforded the boys such substantial and profitable sport, is over.

The Rev. Fathers Berg of Remington, Schram of Renolds, and Kubaski called on us during the fair at Rensselaer.

Hurrah for the "B. C. G"! They are to be congratulated on the handsome appearance they make in their new uniforms.

Boys, can't you get those foot ball teams together again? It is too bad to abandon our beautiful grounds so early in the season.

Capt. Pfeifer of the "College Stars" has made the base ball season this year quite a success; the playing all around was above the average.

The Rev. Fathers Bleckmann of Michigan City and Plaster of Hammond, Ind., paid us a visit Oct. 22nd. We would be pleased to have the Reverend Fathers call on us frequently.

The editor of the "loose papers," the "Columbian," displayed a remarkable proficiency in his burlesque treatise on the genesis of the watermelon. The boys are now wondering that "Bismarck" does not betray him.

Hon. T. H. Nelson, of Terre Haute, Ind., called on us during his recent campaign tour

through this part of the state. He congratulated us heartily upon the thriving condition and comfortable appearance of our College.

Fall! everything is falling. "Fatty," while engaged in fishing during the warm days of latter October, did not take exception and fell into the lake. Though this placid little body of water does not communicate with the ocean, there was, nevertheless, a case of flow and ebb.

Mr. Frank H. Dirksen and Mr. Henry F. Droesch, two of the charter members of the Columbian Literary Society, are now engaged in teaching school, and are fast acquiring a reputation as live, progressive teachers. Mr. Dirksen is in Shelby County, O., and Mr. Droesch in Mercer Co., Ohio. THE COLLEGIAN extends its congratulations, and hopes to hear from them often.

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There is a knowledge that can only come from practice, and be learned from failure. We must pay for our own errors and for those of our predecessors.

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At least ninety-nine out of every hundred works of fiction have no business to exist. They are not living and self-supporting organisms, but galvanized compilations. If you take away the connecting links, the explanatory passages, the comments, the allusions, whatever is left (if there were anything) would fall into a shapeless heap of rubbish. No real story is there.—Julian Hawthorne.

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It sometimes happens that books harmless in themselves are condemned, as, for instance, when an author shows an evil tendency in others of his works; then the Congregation of the Index forbids the reading of all that he has written. The reason for adopting this course is that the author may be punished and the faithful kept on their guard against anything he or she may give to the public, as it is often no easy matter for the laity to distinguish between what is dangerous and what is not. There are, besides, other books put on the Index that are not absolutely proscribed, but only provisionally until they be corrected. In this case the correcting is done by the Congregation itself, or under its direction and supervision.